

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 HA-05 ACDA-12 /095 W

-----000594 212029Z /50

P R 211505Z APR 78

FM USINT HAVANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1680

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PDEV MILI ET SO CU

SUBJ: POLITBURO MEMBER SPEAKS ON BAY OF PIGS ANNIVERSARY

1. POLITBURO MEMBER PEDRO MIRET, APRIL 20, DELIVERED KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT CEREMONY MARKING SEVENTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF BAY OF PIGS INVASION. CEREMONY WAS NOT ATTENDED BY FIDEL CASTRO NOR OTHER PROMINENT FIGURES (OTHER THAN POLITBURO MEMBER ARMANDO HART). SPEECH AVOIDED HARANGUES AGAINST PAST OR PRESENT US LEADERS AND CUBAN EXILES, AND TOOK ALMOST DETACHED VIEW OF INVASION BY PORTRAYING IT AS PRODUCT OF INEVITABLE HISTORICAL CONTRADICTIONS THAT AROSE WITHIN CUBA AND BETWEEN CUBA AND US AS RESULT OF 1959-1961 REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS. UP SHOT OF MARXIST HISTORICAL INTERPRETATION OFFERED UP BY MIRET IS THAT US LEADERS AND CUBAN EXILES ARE PORTRAYED LESS AS EVIL-DOERS IN THEIR OWN RIGHT, THAN AS FORCED PARTICIPANTS IN HISTORICAL PROCESS BEYOND THEIR CONTROL.

2. SPEECH, HOWEVER, MOVES ON TO LINK CUBAN EFFORT AGAINST IMPERIALISM AT BAY OF PIGS WITH CURRENT CUBAN "INTERNATIONALIST" EFFORTS IN AFRICA. WITHOUT SPECIFICALLY REFERRING TO US,

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MIRET REITERATES FAMILIAR POSITION THAT CUBA WILL NOT NEGOTIATE OVER ITS INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA. THEN, TURNING TO UPCOMING CASTRO-MENGISTU MEETING, MIRET SAYS THAT CUBANS AND ETHIOPIANS SHARE SAME "ENEMY", "CAUSE", "IDEOLOGY", AND "COMBAT PHILOSOPHY". MOREOVER, HE SAYS WITH RELISH HOLDING OF MENGISTU-CASTRO MEETING HERE IN HAVANA "UNDER THE BEARD" OF THE "IMPERIALISTS" WILL PROVE EXTREMELY IRRITATING TO THEM.

3. COMMENT: FIRST PART OF MIRET'S SPEECH STRIKES US AS CAREFULLY CRAFTED EFFORT TO AVOID DIRECTLY ATTACKING US AND EXILES ON OCCASION WHEN MUCH MORE VICIOUS HARANGUE COULD HAVE BEEN EXPECTED. SECOND PART COMPENSTATES TO SOME EXTENT FOR THIS RESTRAINT BY FLAUNTING CUBA'S CURRENT REVOLUTIONARY AVOCATION IN AFRICA AND ITS TOTAL SUPPORT FOR MENGISTU, BUT WITHOUT DIRECTLY ATTACKING US POLICY AND WITHOUT SPELLING OUT NATURE OF FUTURE SUPPORT FOR ETHIOPIA (FOR EXAMPLE, IN ERITREA).

4. CUBAN PRESS HAS BEGUN WHIPPING UP MASSIVE PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN IN CONNECTION WITH MENGISTU VISIT (TWO WHOLE PAGES OF GRANMA, APRIL 20, ARE DEVOTED TO ETHIOPIA). MIRET'S GUSHING PRAISE FOR ETHIOPIA, AND HIS REMARKS TWITTING U.S. ABOUT CASTRO-MENGISTU MEETINGS ARE NOT UNEXPECTED ON EVE OF WHAT CUBANS WILL WISH TO PORTRAY AS VIRTUAL REVOLUTIONARY "LOVE FEAST" BETWEEN ADDIS AND HAVANA. AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, THERE SEEMS TO BE ELEMENT OF RITUALISTIC "LEFTISM" IN MIRET'S REMARKS WHICH MAY BE INTENDED TO COVER UP AND BALANCE CUBAN EFFORT TO AVOID DIRECT MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN ERITREA AND TO PUSH MENGISTU TOWARD POLITICAL APPROACH TO THIS PROBLEM (SEE HAVANA 980 AND 966).

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014